

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 28, 2008. In the amendment, claims 1-28 remain pending in the application. Claim 21 is currently amended merely to correct a typographical error. *This amendment adds no new matter.* In view of the remarks below, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-8, 14-16, 18-20, and 26-28 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by J.P. Publication No. 2000-227548 A to Nanjo (“Nanjo ‘548”). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites: *[a] zoom lens of an inner focus type having four or five lens groups, including at least a first lens group having positive refractive power, a second lens group having negative refractive power, which is movable in an optical axis direction mainly for zooming (varying power), a third lens group having positive refractive power, and a fourth lens group having positive or negative refractive power, which is movable in the optical axis direction for correcting fluctuations in focal position during zooming and for focusing, which lens groups are arrayed in order from an object side, characterized in that:*

said first lens group comprises at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object side.

These claimed features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Nanjo ‘548. Nanjo ‘548 discloses a zoom lens of a multiple-group composition having plural lens groups. (Nanjo ‘548, Abstract, SOLUTION.) Sequentially, from the object side, the zoom lens of Nanjo ‘548 includes a 1st fixed lens group GRI, a 2nd moveable lens group GRII, a 3rd fixed lens group GRIII, and a 4th moveable lens group GRIV. (Nanjo ‘548, para. [0016].)

However, the multi-group zoom lens disclosed by Nanjo ‘548 varies significantly from Applicant’s claimed invention. For instance, the 1st lens group GRI of Nanjo ‘548 is clearly distinct from the first lens group recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Purely by way of example, Applicant's Fig. 1, reproduced below, aids in explaining this distinction.

Applicant's claim 1 recites that the "first lens group (Gr1) comprises at least a concave lens (L1), a convex lens (L2), and a triple-cemented lens (L3, L4, and L5) in which a lens (L4) made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object side."

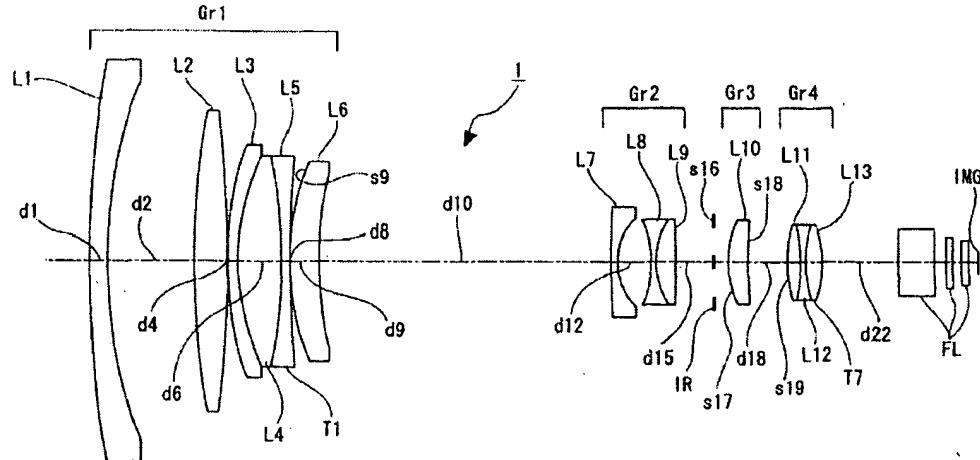
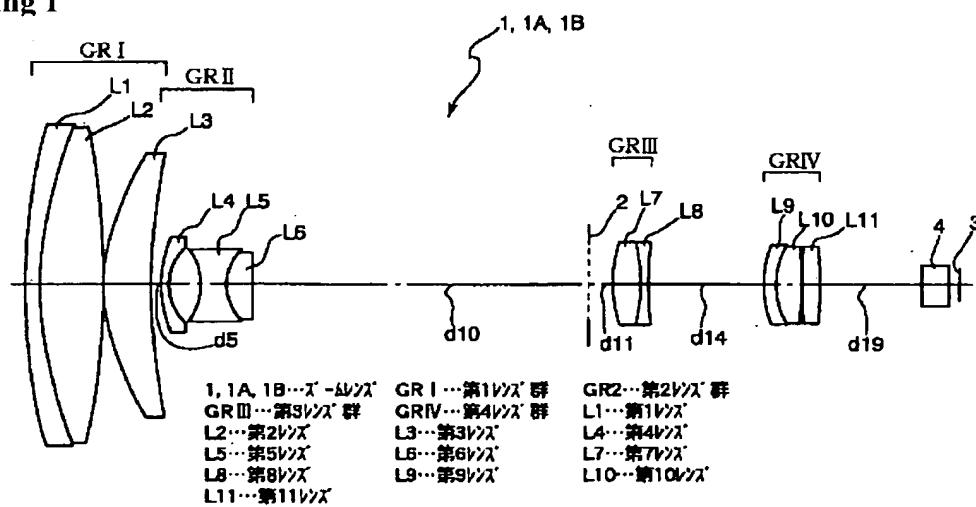


Fig.1

In contrast, Nanjo '548 discloses, as reproduced below in Nanjo '548 Drawing 1, a first lens group GRI composed, in order from the object side, of "a cemented lens of a first concave meniscus L1 whose convex surface is directed to the object side and a second convex lens L2, and a third convex meniscus lens L3 whose convex surface is directed to the object side. (Nanjo '548, Abstract, SOLUTION; see also Nanjo '548, para. [0012]).

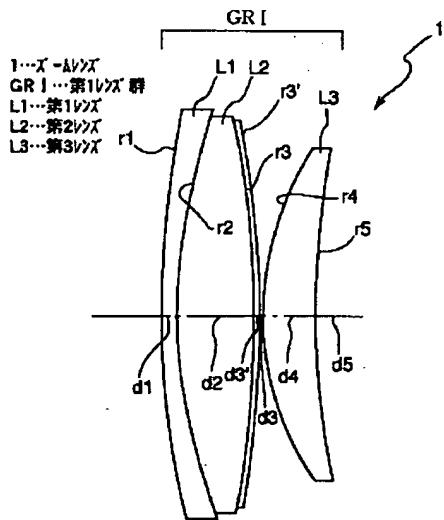
Drawing 1



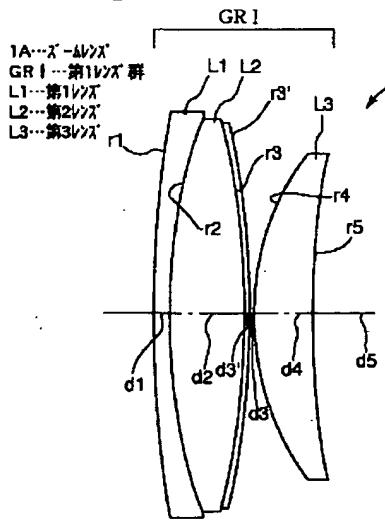
Nanjo '548 further discloses a "film of resin" formed on the lens surface of lens L2 or L3. (Nanjo '548, paras. [0012] - [0015]; *see also* Nanjo '548, paras. [0019], [0027], and [0098].) Nanjo '548 discloses that due to the film of resin, "the 2nd lens that is a convex lens is cheaply manufactured by material with a large abrasion degree." (Nanjo '548, para. [0012].)

Nanjo '548 discloses that "[a]n aspheric surface constitutes at least one field of each lens which constitutes the group GRI." (Nanjo '548, para. [0026].) Further, Nanjo '548 discloses, "in the case of the convex (assumedly at r3' in Drawing 2 and 6 and at r4' in Drawing 10, reproduced below), the field constituted by this aspheric surface considered it as the aspherical surface shape which becomes shallower than the depth of a paraxial surface of a sphere in an effective diameter, and, in the case of the concave surface (assumedly at r5' in Drawing 10, reproduced below), considered it as the aspherical surface shape which becomes deeper than the depth of a paraxial surface of a sphere in an effective diameter." (Nanjo '548, para. [0026].) "The aspheric surface of the 1st lens group GRI of the above was made into the compound aspheric surface in which the film of resin was formed on the surface of the surface of a sphere." (Nanjo '548, para. [0027].)

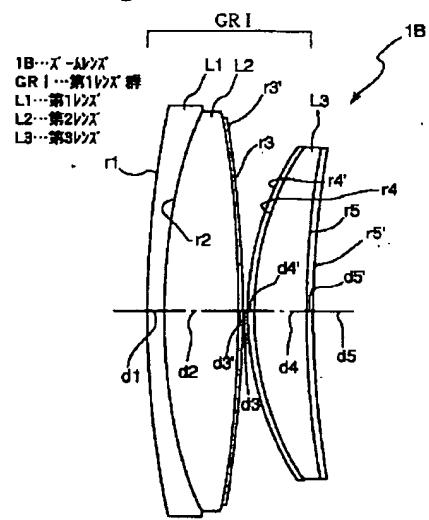
Drawing 2



Drawing 6



Drawing 10



Therefore, while the first lens group GRI of Nanjo '548 may include, in order from the object side, a concave lens L1, a convex lens L2 cemented to the concave lens L1, and a convex meniscus lens L3, and while the surfaces of lens L2 or L3 may be covered with a film of resin,

Nanjo ‘548 clearly lacks a “first lens group comprises at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object side,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Nanjo ‘548 thus clearly fails to disclose or suggest features clearly recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and thus incorporate the distinct features recited therein, as well as their separately recited patentably distinct features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nanjo ‘548. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.”); *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (“The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.”).

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanjo ‘548 in view of J.P. Publication No. 2000-105336 A to Nanjo (“Nanjo ‘336”). This rejection is traversed.

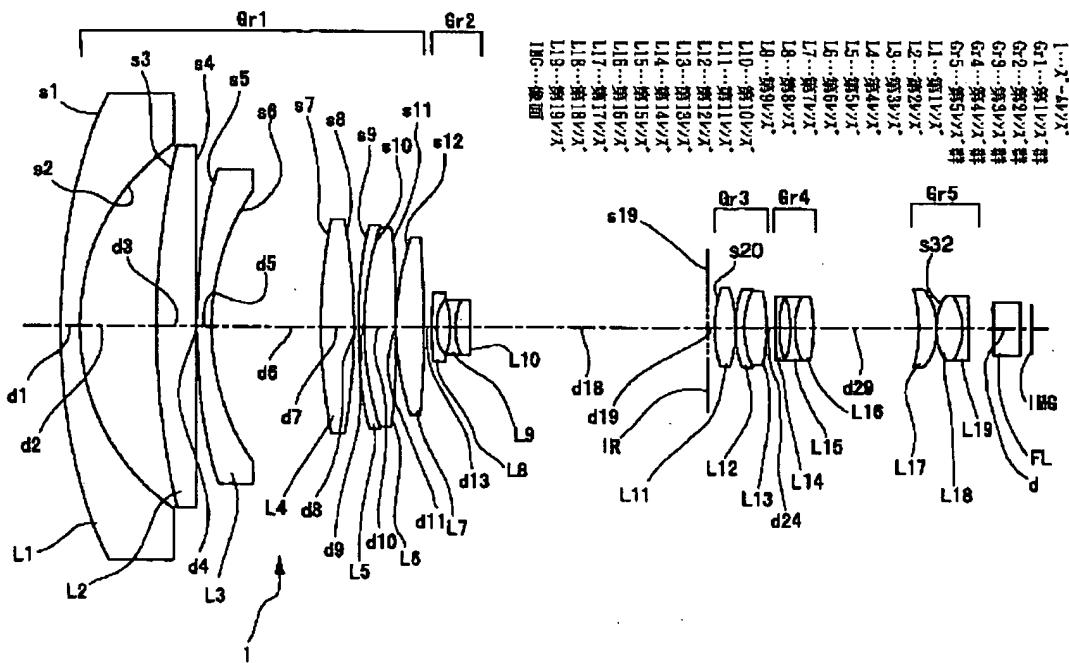
Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1 and thus incorporates the distinct features recited therein, which are absent from Nanjo ‘548 as noted in detail above.

Nanjo ‘336 fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nanjo ‘548. Nanjo ‘336 discloses a wide-angle/telephoto zoom lens having a 1st lens group Gr1, a 2nd moveable lens group Gr2, a 3rd lens group, a 4th moveable lens group, and a 5th lens group. (Nanjo ‘336, para. [0011].)

Nanjo ‘336 discloses that lens group Gr1 is constituted by seven lens sequentially from the object side, “the 1st lens L1 of concave meniscus shape” with the convex turned to the object side, the 2nd lens L2 of a convex lens, the 3rd lens L3 of the concave meniscus shape which turned the convex to the object side, the 4th lens L4 of a convex lens, a cemented lens with 6th lens L6 of the 5th lens L5 of a concave lens, and a convex lens, and the 7th lens L7 of a convex lens.” (Nanjo ‘336, para. [0018].)

However, Nanjo '336, as shown in Nanjo '336 Drawing 1, reproduced below, discloses a 1st lens group Gr1 clearly distinct from the first lens group recited in Applicant's claim 1. Namely, Nanjo '336, like Nanjo '548, clearly lacks a "first lens group compris[ing] at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object side," as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Drawing 1



Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanjo '548 in view of Nanjo '336. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974) (To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.); *see also* MPEP 2143.03.

Claims 9, 10-12, 13, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanjo '336 in view of Nanjo '548. This rejection is traversed.

For reasons similar to those provided regarding claim 1, independent claim 9 is also not disclosed or suggested by Nanjo '336 or Nanjo '548, alone or in any permissible combination.

Dependent claims 10-12, 13, and 17 are also distinct for their incorporation of the features recited in independent claim 9, as well as for their own, separately recited patentably distinct features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 10-12, 13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanjo '336 in view of Nanjo '548.

Claims 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,530 to Yokota et al. ("Yokota") in view of Nanjo '548. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 21 recites: *[a]n imaging apparatus having a zoom lens, imaging means for transforming an image taken in by said zoom lens to an electrical image signal, and image control means, characterized in that:*

said image control means, referring to a transformation coordinate coefficient provided in advance according to a variable power rate by said zoom lens, moves points on the image which are defined by the image signal formed by said imaging means to form a new image signal subjected to coordinate transformation and to output said new image signal,

said zoom lens of an inner focus type having four or five lens groups, comprises at least a first lens group having positive refractive power, a second lens group having negative refractive power, which is movable in an optical axis direction mainly for zooming (varying power), a third lens group having positive refractive power, and a fourth lens group having positive or negative refractive power, which is movable in the optical axis direction for correcting fluctuations in focal position during zooming and for focusing, which lens groups are arrayed in order from an object side, and

said first lens group comprises at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object.

These claimed features are absent from the relied-upon references. Yokota, is relied upon for allegedly disclosing an image pickup apparatus having a zoom lens, an imaging means, and an image control means. (Office Action, pg. 11, lines 15-22.) However, Yokota fails to disclose or

suggest a zoom lens having a first lens group, “*said first lens group compris[ing] at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object.*”

For reason described in detail above, Nanjo ‘548 fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yokota. Namely, Nanjo ‘548 fails to disclose or suggest a “*first lens group compris[ing] at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object.*”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota in view of Nanjo ‘548.

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,530 to Yokota et al. (“Yokota”) in view of Nanjo ‘548, and further in view of Nanjo ‘336.
This rejection is traversed.

Claim 25 depends from independent claim 21 and thus incorporates the distinct features recited therein, which are absent from both Yokota and Nanjo ‘548, alone or in combination, as noted in detail above.

Further, Nanjo ‘336 fails to cure the deficiencies of either Yokota or Nanjo ‘548. Particularly, as noted in detail above, Nanjo ‘336 fails to disclose or suggest a “*first lens group compris[ing] at least a concave lens, a convex lens, and a triple-cemented lens in which a lens made of special low-dispersion glass is sandwiched in the middle, which lenses are arrayed in order from the object.*”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota in view of Nanjo ‘548, and further in view of Nanjo ‘336.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If any further issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve them.

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. However, Applicant reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers. Further, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicant expressly do not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

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Respectfully submitted,

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